

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 7 (Canceled).

8. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 21, wherein the substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic peptide receptor and accelerates production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate is a natriuretic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the natriuretic peptide is arterial brain natriuretic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the natriuretic peptide is brain natriuretic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said substance is in a form of a pharmacologically acceptable salt.

Claims 12 – 20 (Canceled).

21. (Withdrawn) A method for treatment of chronic cardiac dysfunction which produces pulmonary congestion, which method does not produce diuretic and hypotensive effects comprising administering a substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic peptide receptor and accelerates production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate to a subject in need of such treatment in an amount effective for reducing pulmonary congestion, wherein said amount does not produce diuretic and hypotensive effects.

Claims 22-29 (Canceled).

30. (Withdrawn) A method for treatment of chronic cardiac dysfunction which produces pulmonary congestion, by recessing cardiac hypertrophy after the cardiac hypertrophy has been established and by alleviating the pulmonary congestion, which method does not produce diuretic and hypotensive effect, comprising administering a substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic receptor and accelerates production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate to a subject in need of such treatment.

31. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 30, wherein the natriuretic peptide is arterial natriuretic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

32. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 30, wherein the natriuretic peptide is brain natriuretic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for decreasing ~~heart weight after the cardiac hypertrophy has been established~~ ventricle weight which has once increased by cardiac hypertrophy, in chronic cardiac dysfunction which produces pulmonary congestion, comprising administering a natriuretic peptide ~~substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic receptor and accelerates production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate~~ to a subject in need of such treatment.

34. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 33, wherein the natriuretic peptide is ~~arterial~~ an atrial natriuretic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 33, wherein the natriuretic peptide is brain natriuretic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.